

disabilities and the elderly. Often, in global disasters, children, the disabled and the elderly are most at risk. These are the people for whom Project HOPE can make a difference.

In addition to Project HOPE's vital work among the Syrian refugee population, they are also serving the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Project HOPE has a proven track record in the region and is urgently working to provide much needed emergency medicine and medical supplies to the survivors of this devastating natural disaster.

I applaud Project HOPE's 55-year legacy of tireless service to the poor and vulnerable, both here and abroad.

I submit the following article from the Winchester Star, which details Project HOPE's outstanding work to bring medical relief to Syrian refugees.

[From the Winchester Star, Sept. 21, 2013]

HOPE ARRIVES FOR REFUGEES FROM CIVIL WAR-TORN SYRIA

(By Val Van Meter)

MILLWOOD.—The disadvantaged children affect Frederick Gerber the most.

He is at the Al Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan this week, delivering 186,000 doses of vaccine from Project HOPE in Millwood to children there.

Gerber is a director of operations in Iraq for Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere) and helped to build a hospital for children in Basrah, the first new hospital in Iraq—a country with a population of about 33 million—since the 1980s.

His organization is trying to help Jordan and other countries in the area to cope with the influx of refugees from the two-year-old civil war in Syria.

The conflict has generated a flood of refugees into countries neighboring Syria, Gerber said.

Al Za'atari opened two years ago, with 60,000 men, women and children.

Now, Gerber said, Jordan is sheltering more than 600,000, with more than 200,000 in United Nations refugee camps. Al Za'atari is the second-largest refugee camp in the world, and would qualify as Jordan's fourth-largest city.

"It's the size of 600 football fields," Gerber said.

Those in the camps could be said to be the lucky ones. He noted that they receive deliveries of clean water, food and blankets.

Other refugees try to find shelter with family members or friends, or simply squat in empty or abandoned buildings.

"They live in dire circumstances," Gerber said.

Project HOPE, with its focus on health projects, has been working in the Middle East for a dozen years, he said.

This situation, with the refugee totals of those who have left Syria expected to top 3.5 million by year's end—and another 4.5 million believed to be displaced in the war-torn country—is swamping the resources of its neighbors.

"Jordan needs a lot of help to help them," Gerber said.

Project HOPE's donation of vaccines to fight rotavirus is a preventative operation, he said.

Rotaviruses are known to cause diarrhea and dehydration, especially in children, and break out where people are crowded together and clean water and good sanitation are lacking.

Project HOPE is also readying some \$30 million in medical supplies in its Winchester warehouse for shipment to Jordan.

Much of that shipment will be used in the camps—but, Gerber said, he hopes some can

be moved over the border into Syria, where about 2,500 medical professionals are working under battlefield conditions to help casualties from the fighting.

"These are the real heroes," he said.

Estimates indicate that 70 percent of Syria's doctors have fled the country, Gerber said. Most of the nation's hospitals have been damaged or destroyed.

The physicians remaining are working in field hospitals and aid stations, dealing with battlefield casualties with sparse modern supplies or equipment.

Without proper retractors, Gerber said, he has heard of doctors holding a chest open for surgery "with a pair of pancake flippers."

In addition to immediate medical emergencies, he sees a future threat in post-traumatic stress disorder for all refugees and a dim future for the children who may live in refugee camps for years without any hope of getting an education.

Gerber would like to find ways to have Jordanian professionals trained to handle the "stress, depression and anxiety that are so palpable" in and outside the camps.

"Very few have any training in psychosocial illnesses," he added.

But his first focus now is keeping the children healthy.

"I love what I'm doing," said Gerber, a Washington, D.C., resident who spent 32 years in the Army health services.

"And it's wonderful to do it with an organization like Project HOPE."

But seeing children starved or injured "never fails to bring a tear to my eye."

#### TO RECOGNIZE THE PENNCO TECH'S 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pennco Tech for celebrating 40 years of success in our community. The school and its branch campuses have been training individuals in electronic, automotive, and technological fields for decades. They also specialize in HVAC, building trades, and healthcare—helping prepare young students to excel in good paying jobs in my community.

In 1961, Pennco Tech was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1966, they founded the School of Automotive Technology through the Ford Motor Company. Together, these companies were acquired by Pennco Institutes Incorporated in 1973. The schools then united in Bristol, Pennsylvania in 1975. Since then, the school has opened branch campuses in Pennsauken, New Jersey and Blackwood, New Jersey. The Pennsauken campus has also been granted accreditation from ACCSC. Today, both schools offer a wide range of majors that allow students to gain hands on experience within their field of study.

Pennco Tech is a vital educational institution in our community, as they teach necessary skills that further the knowledge of those who are entering the workforce and contributing to the local economy. Once again, congratulations on 40 years of success.

#### COMMENDING THE CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Clements High School Marching Band from my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. They won top honors at the 2nd annual Texas Marching Classic in Round Rock, Texas. Not only did Clements take home the championship trophy, but they also received awards for best music, best visual and best general effects. Their award winning performance of "Resistance is Futile" featured music from J.J. Abrams' Star Trek.

After winning the Texas Marching Classic, the band and color guard followed their win with a grand champion victory at the Sam Houston Marching Contest the very next weekend. In both cases, the band headed into the finals in second place but came out on top in the end.

The Texas Marching Classic hosts 22 of the top marching bands in the State of Texas. I can only imagine the preparation that these young students had to put in these last few months. Their hard work and dedication has certainly paid off. The Marching Band has made Clements High School and our community proud. I'm proud to extend a Texas-sized congratulation to the Clements High School Marching Band for their musical achievements.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRAHMIN SAMAJ OF USA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brahmin Samaj of USA (BSOU) on its 25th Anniversary. For 25 years, BSOU has represented the Brahmin community in New Jersey, the surrounding region and all Brahmins across the United States.

Established in New Jersey in 1988, BSOU has grown from 11 members to more than 500 members today. In addition to its growth in membership, BSOU has also expanded to each U.S. state, Canada and other international countries. Likewise, it has seen the establishment of sister organizations in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Florida and Ontario. It was registered as the official Brahmin organization in New Jersey in 1989.

Since its founding, BSOU has been led by ten presidents, including Founding President the late Shri Manibhai Joshi, Arunbhai Kantharia, Pramodaben Joshi, Begavatbhai Pandya, Rasikbhai Bhatt, Vishnubhai Bhatt, Dr. Hitendra Upadhyay, Naishad Pandya, Bhogilal Jani and current President Abhay Shukla. The organization is also represented by a Board of Trustees and Executive Committee which work toward advancing BSOU.

BSOU hosts various social, religious and cultural activities to promote and maintain the traditions and heritage of the Brahmins. It has hosted youth activities, large conventions and